

Appl. No. 10/749,681
Amdt. dated June 8, 2006
Reply to Office Action of February 22, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-32 were presented for the Examiner's consideration. Claims 17-28 are currently withdrawn. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended and claims 10-12 are canceled. Hence, claims 1-9, 13-16, and 29-32 are pending in the application. Support for this Amendment is found on page 20, lines 3-7 and 36 and page 26, lines 27-28 of the specification as originally filed. No new matter is added.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.111, reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. 35 U.S.C. 112 Rejection/Claim Objection

Claims 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Additionally claims 10-12 are objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.75 (c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Without comment as to the propriety of rejection and the objection, Applicants have canceled claims 10-12 in order to advance prosecution. Thus, both the rejection and the objection are now moot and should be withdrawn.

II. 35 U.S.C. 102 Rejections

Claims 1, 16, and 29-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jacob et al. The rejection is respectfully traversed to the extent that it may apply to the presently presented claims.

Jacob teaches a hot melt pressure sensitive adhesive composition comprising an elastomeric component mixed with a tackifier component (See Abstract).

Jacob does not teach a blended composition of unsaturated block copolymer comprising at least one unsaturated block copolymer and a compatibilizer selected from the group

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consisting of styrene-butadiene-styrene (SBS), or styrene-isoprene-styrene (SIS) block copolymers, wherein said blended composition of unsaturated block copolymer **does not comprise an adhesive**. Instead, Jacob teaches that its styrene-isoprene block copolymers and styrene-butadiene block copolymers comprise a portion of an adhesive composition (See Col. 1, lines 54-60). Jacob's compatible tackifier resins comprise 40 to 60% by weight of the composition and provide for the adhesive property of the composition (See Col. 2, lines 5-20). Conversely, Applicants' composition does not contain an adhesive (See Specification page 26, lines 27-28).

Because Jacob does not teach the composition of independent claim 1, the rejection should be withdrawn. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 7-16, and 29-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hatfield et al. The rejection is respectfully traversed to the extent that it may apply to the presently presented claims.

Hatfield teaches hot melt adhesive compositions comprising a blend of styrene-isoprene block copolymer containing at least about 25 weight percent styrene and styrene-butadiene block copolymer containing at least about 25 weight percent styrene, at least one compatible tackifying resin and at least one plasticizer (See Abstract).

Hatfield does not teach a blended composition of unsaturated block copolymer comprising at least one unsaturated block copolymer and a compatibilizer selected from the group consisting of styrene-butadiene-styrene (SBS), or styrene-isoprene-styrene (SIS) block copolymers, wherein said blended composition of unsaturated block copolymer **does not comprise an adhesive**. Instead, Hatfield teaches that its tackifying resins comprise from about 40 to about 65 parts by weight and that these tackifying resins extend adhesive properties and improve specific adhesion characteristics of the adhesives (See Col. 3, line 61- Col. 4, line 30). Conversely, Applicants' composition does not comprise an adhesive (See Specification page 26, lines 27-28).

Because Hatfield does not teach the composition of independent claim 1, the rejection should be withdrawn. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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Claims 1-15 and 29-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cameron et al. The rejection is respectfully traversed to the extent that it may apply to the presently presented claims.

Cameron teaches a hot melt pressure sensitive adhesive, comprising from about 10% to about 50% by weight of the adhesive of at least one styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymer having a diblock content of greater than about 50%, from about 10% to about 40% by weight of an adhesive of at least one tackifying resin, and from about 10 to about 50% by weight of the adhesive of a plasticizer (See Abstract)

Cameron does not teach a blended composition of unsaturated block copolymer comprising at least one unsaturated block copolymer and a compatibilizer selected from the group consisting of styrene-butadiene-styrene (SBS), or styrene-isoprene-styrene (SIS) block copolymers, wherein said blended composition of unsaturated block copolymer **does not comprise an adhesive**. Instead, Cameron teaches good adhesion is typically achieved through the use of high levels of tackifying resin and that reducing the tackifying resin reduces the initial adhesion or anchorage to the base substrate (See Col. 3, lines 1-11). Conversely, Applicants' composition does not contain an adhesive (See Specification page 26, lines 27-28).

Because Cameron does not teach the composition of independent claim 1, the rejection should be withdrawn. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 7-16, and 29-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Grennes et al. The rejection is respectfully traversed to the extent that it may apply to the presently presented claims.

Grennes teaches a thin-walled rubber article comprising styrene-isoprene-styrene (S-I-S) triblock copolymer and styrene-butadiene-styrene (S-B-S) triblock copolymer with a S-I-S content from 10-75% by weight (See Abstract).

Grennes does not teach a blended composition of unsaturated block copolymer wherein said blended composition of unsaturated block copolymer is **a cast or blown film**. Instead, Grennes teaches a process whereby an S-I-S and S-B-S blend is dissolved in a solvent, and rubber is formed when the solvent evaporates (See Col. 2, lines 20-30).

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Because Grennes does not teach the composition of independent claim 1, the rejection should be withdrawn. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. 35 U.S.C. 102/103 Rejections

Claims 2-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by, or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as obvious over Jacob et al. The rejection is respectfully traversed to the extent that it may apply to the presently presented claims.

As discussed above, Jacob does not teach a blended composition of unsaturated block copolymer comprising at least one unsaturated block copolymer and a compatibilizer selected from the group consisting of styrene-butadiene-styrene (SBS), or styrene-isoprene-styrene (SIS) block copolymers, wherein said blended composition of unsaturated block copolymer **does not comprise an adhesive**.

Because Jacob does not teach the composition of independent claim 1, the rejection of claims 2-6, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 should be withdrawn. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by, or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as obvious over Hatfield et al. The rejection is respectfully traversed to the extent that it may apply to the presently presented claims.

As discussed above, Hatfield does not teach a blended composition of unsaturated block copolymer comprising at least one unsaturated block copolymer and a compatibilizer selected from the group consisting of styrene-butadiene-styrene (SBS), or styrene-isoprene-styrene (SIS) block copolymers, wherein said blended composition of unsaturated block copolymer **does not comprise an adhesive**.

Because Hatfield does not teach the composition of independent claim 1, the rejection of claims 2-6, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 should be withdrawn. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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Claims 2-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by, or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as obvious over Grennes et al. The rejection is respectfully traversed to the extent that it may apply to the presently presented claims.

As discussed above, Grennes does not teach a blended composition of unsaturated block copolymer wherein said blended composition of unsaturated block copolymer is **a cast or blown film**.

Because Grennes does not teach the composition of independent claim 1, the rejection of claims 2-6, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 should be withdrawn. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

For the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently presented claims are in form for allowance.

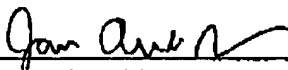
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The undersigned may be reached at: 770-587-8620.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryon Paul Day et al.

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